

onebookblitz

Connecting a Community of Readers

ONE BOOK BLITZ

2022 will mark the fifth year of One Book Blitz in Blount County. This communitywide literacy initiative gives students in kindergarten through 5th grade (in Maryville, Alcoa, Blount County, and some private groups), an opportunity to read, study, perform, draw, sing, and become totally absorbed in the same great book. For many of these 9,000 plus students, this will be one of the highlights of their academic year.

This effort takes many teachers, support staff, and parents to prepare for not only the opening and closing ceremonies, but also an entire month of activities centered on the book. Community businesses join the effort by donating funds, providing resources, gifts-in-kind, prizes, and so much more. Our local print media partner, The Daily Times, is fully committed to the effort – providing in-depth coverage before, during, and after the event. One Book Blitz (OBB) would be impossible without these generous supporters and tireless helpers.

In the first two years, OBB was conducted in January, but in 2019 it was moved to February. The first year students loved “Charlotte’s Web”, followed by “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” “Mr. Popper’s Penguins” was added to the list of classics in 2019. Since the beginning, schools and leaders have shared the same goals - promoting reading with families, supporting full student engagement in the reading of classic literature, and raising awareness in the community about the need to increase reading comprehension at all levels.

If you have not read these great children’s classics, we invite you to join us. In addition, if your business would like to become a partner in this communitywide initiative, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss our program needs. Please contact any administrators at a K-5 school in our community or call any of the district offices to learn more.

